

#### **IV. Remarks**

##### **A. Status of the Application**

Applicants appreciate and acknowledge the allowability of claims 11, 13-21, 23, and 26-28.

Claims 1-10, and 22 have been canceled. Claims 11-12, 17-21, and 23-29 have been amended. Claims 30-39 have been added. Accordingly, the pending claims are 11-21 and 23-39.

No new matter has been added by the amendments herein. Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

##### **B. Rejection under 102(e) over U.S. 5,922,003 to Anctil**

Claims 10, 12, 22, 24, 25 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,922,003 to Anctil ("Anctil"). To the extent the rejection applies to the amended claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicant's independent claim 10 has been canceled. Applicant's dependent claim 12 has been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 11. Applicant's independent claim 22 has been canceled. Applicant's dependent claims 24, 25, and 29 have been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 23.

As all of the rejected claims have either been canceled or amended to depend from an allowable claim, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to Claims 10, 12, 22, 24, 25 and 29, for at least the reasons set forth above.

##### **C. Allowable Subject Matter**

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 13-16. Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 13-16.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 11, 17-21, 23 and 26-28 as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but which would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has rewritten claims 11 and 17 in independent form. Applicant has amended claims 18-21 to depend from allowable independent claim 11. Applicant has rewritten claims 23

and 26 in independent form. Applicant has amended claims 27-28 to depend from allowable independent claim 23.

D. Conclusion

Unless otherwise specifically noted, none of the amendments to the claims are for a reason related to patentability.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable, and respectfully requests a notice of allowance for claims 11-21 and 23-39. If the Examiner believes an interview would be helpful in moving the application forward to allowance, or has any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/31/04

  
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